

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
 10 West 15th Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 October 11, 2016

Contact: Eric Sommer
 (800) 835-2612

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 9, 2016

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Montana experienced a rollercoaster of weather this week going from cool and rainy to warm and sunny before ending with a cold front that brought freezing temperatures and snow to some locations, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Daytime high temperatures for the week ranged from the upper 50s to 82 degrees in Brandenburg and Forsyth. Overnight lows ranged from the upper teens to the upper 30s with a statewide low of 17 degrees in Zortman. Zortman also recorded the highest amount of precipitation for the week with 5.30 inches of moisture. All other reporting stations reported receiving measurable precipitation but accumulation varied widely, from 0.01 to 5.08 inches of moisture. Field work largely came to a halt for much of the week with only 2.6 days suitable compared with 5.7 days last week and 5.8 days last year. However, producers harvesting corn for grain and silage continued to make progress, remaining ahead of normal with 30 percent of corn for grain and 90 percent of corn silage harvested compared with 5-year averages of 18 percent and 86 percent, respectively. Winter wheat seeding continues with 79 percent complete which is well behind last year and right at the 5-year average and is now 51 percent emerged, behind last year but ahead of the 5-year average. Reporters are noting that producers that haven't seeded winter wheat yet may have missed their opportunity in areas where fields received heavy moisture. Potato harvest was intermittently delayed due to precipitation and continues behind last year and the 5-year average with 54 percent harvested compared with 69 percent last year and the 5-year average of 56 percent harvested. Sugarbeet harvest was delayed by both moisture and frost this week and progress is now right at both last year's rate and the 5-year average with 23 percent complete so far. Pasture and rangeland conditions improved slightly, with 30 percent rated good to excellent which was better than last year's 19 percent but still below the 5-year average of 34 percent. Livestock producers continue to move stock off summer pastures with 44 percent of cattle and calves moved and 66 percent of sheep and lambs moved. Livestock receiving supplemental feed remains below last year with 10 percent of cattle and calves and 12 percent of sheep and lambs being fed.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Camelina				
Harvested	85	80	100	99
Canola				
Harvested	95	91	100	99
Corn				
Harvested for Grain	30	28	31	18
Harvested for Silage	90	83	92	86
Flaxseed				
Harvested	82	81	100	97
Potatoes				
Harvested	54	32	69	56
Safflower				
Harvested	54	53	53	57
Sugarbeets				
Harvested	23	22	23	23
Winter Wheat				
Planted	79	70	90	79
Emergence	51	33	55	37
Cattle and calves				
Moved from summer range	44	38	55	51
Receiving supplemental feed	10	8	26	NA
Sheep and lambs				
Moved from summer range	66	57	70	62
Receiving supplemental feed	12	11	29	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	2.6	5.7	5.8	NA
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	10	10	15	14
Short.....	19	20	30	26
Adequate.....	56	60	48	55
Surplus.....	15	10	7	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	12	13	15	16
Short.....	24	25	34	30
Adequate.....	57	56	42	49
Surplus.....	7	6	9	5

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	3	2
Poor.....	4	4	6	6
Fair.....	30	30	34	32
Good.....	51	51	44	43
Excellent.....	15	15	13	17
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	13	13	13	15
Poor.....	20	21	27	19
Fair.....	37	37	41	32
Good.....	25	24	18	28
Excellent.....	5	5	1	6
Potatoes				
Very poor.....	--	--	NA	NA
Poor.....	2	2	NA	NA
Fair.....	5	5	NA	NA
Good.....	46	46	NA	NA
Excellent.....	47	47	NA	NA
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	2	3	8	6
Fair.....	21	21	28	29
Good.....	65	64	47	45
Excellent.....	12	12	17	19

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Montana's weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2016/MT_Weather_10092016.pdf